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detecting an event;

searching for information on the identifier in response to the event;

displaying the information directly in response to said event without further action by a user of the editor.

REMARKS

Claims 1-39 are pending in the application. Claims 1-39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b), 103(a). Claims 1, 15, 22 and 32 were amended to more clearly recite the invention. No new matter has been added.

In the Official Action, the specification was objected to for not clearly identifying related applications, and for having a non-descriptive title. Claims 1-4, 15, 22 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,627,958 (Potts et al.). Claims 5-14, 16-21, 23-31 and 33-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Potts et al. in combination with U.S. Patent No. 5,694,559 (Hobson et al.).

In response to the objections to the specification, the U.S. Patent Application Nos. of the related patent applications have been supplied by the present amendment. The title has also been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggested title. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to the specification are respectfully requested.

The rejections to claims 1-39 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b), 103(a) are respectfully traversed.

The present invention relates to a computing environment in which as source code is written or developed by a computer programmer via an editor, an automatic help module is invoked upon the occurrence of a predetermined event. See e.g., page 4, lines 10-17. The

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present invention thus provides via a display or other means reference or help information relating to an identifier in the source code being written or developed. In one embodiment, the reference information is a list of parameters for the function with the associated data type for each parameter. Because the help or reference information is displayed directly in response to the predetermined event in accordance with the present invention, the predetermined event begins the process of giving help or reference information to a user of the editor without any further action by the user.

By contrast, Potts et al. teaches an additional step before displaying any help information. With reference to Figs. 6A and 6B, in response to an event, Potts et al. teaches to bring up a display window or interface 600. The user then chooses one of a variety of options such as the rendering of multimedia object 603, the execution of a tutorial routine 607 or the request of help information 609. See e.g., Col. 20, line 45 to Col. 22, line 16. Thus, Potts et al. teaches an additional step not contemplated by the present invention, and not found in the claims of the present invention.

Hobson et al. was cited by the Examiner for various teachings relating to the dependent claims. Hobson et al., however, does not cure the failure of Potts et al. to teach or suggest the invention, as now recited in the independent claims by way of the present amendments.

Consequently, none of the cited references, taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest at least the features of an automatic help module invoked upon a predetermined event and operative to display information, *said information being displayed directly in response to said predetermined event without further action by a user of the editor* (Claims 1 and 22) and detecting an event, searching for information on an identifier in response to the event and

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displaying the information *directly in response to said event without further action by a user of the editor* (Claims 15 and 32).

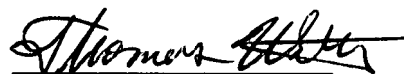
Claims 2 to 14, 16 to 21, 23 to 31 and 33 to 39 depend either directly or indirectly from claims 1, 15, 22 and 32, respectively, and are believed allowable for the same reasons. Applicants thus submit that Claims 1 to 39, as amended, patentably define over Potts et al. taken alone or in combination with the Hobson et al. reference. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-39 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and § 103(a) is thus earnestly solicited.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Office Action, and submit that Claims 1-39 of the application are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and passage to issue of the application at the Examiner's earliest convenience is earnestly solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The paragraphs beginning on page 1, line 5 and ending on page 1, line 10 have been amended as follows:

--This application is related to the following commonly assigned co-pending applications, all filed on November 13, 1998 [the same day and assigned to the same assignee as the present application]:

“Dynamic Parsing” – U.S. Patent Appln. No. 09/191,499 [serial no. _____],

“Automatic Statement Completion” – U.S. Patent Appln. No. 09/191,781 [serial no. _____], and

“Indexing and Searching Across Multiple Sorted Arrays” – U.S. Patent Appln. No. 09/192,057 [serial no. _____].--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) A system comprising:

an editor to provide for developing source code for a computer program, said source code including an identifier;

an automatic help module invoked upon a predetermined event and operative to display information associated with the identifier, said information being displayed directly in response to said predetermined event without further action by a user of the editor.

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15. (Amended) A method comprising:

developing at least a section of source code for a computer program, said source code including an identifier;

detecting an event;

searching for information on the identifier in response to the event;

displaying the information directly in response to said event without further action by a user of the editor.

22. (Amended) A computer comprising:

a processor;

a computer-readable medium;

an editor to provide for developing source code for a computer program, said source code including an identifier; and

an automatic help module invoked upon a predetermined event detected by the editor and operative to display reference information associated with the identifier, said information being displayed directly in response to said predetermined event without further action by a user of the editor.

32. (Amended) A computer readable medium containing computer-executable instructions for performing a method comprising:

developing at least a section of source code for a computer program, said source code including an identifier;

detecting an event;

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searching for information on the identifier in response to the event;

displaying the information directly in response to said event without further action by a
user of the editor.

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